[English]

Violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980

2620. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have violated the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 in the leasing of land to the entrepreneurs for industrial plantation;

(b) if so, the names of States who have violated the norms of the said act;

(c) whether the violation has affected the tribals and rural poor in a large number; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the. Table of the House.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Orissa

2621. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of agriculture being implemented and proposed to be implemented in Orissa particularly in Kalahandi and Nuapara districts during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the details of achievements made thereunder during the said period, scheme-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated and utilized for those schemes so far, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Details of new schemes taken up for implementation in Orissa during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

		Amount released so far	Amount utilised
1.	Sustainable Development of sugarcane based cropping systems	32.25	10.00
2.	Integrated seed development schemes	6.85	-
3.	Streamlining of certified seeds production of vegetable crops.	1.05	-

Funds are not released district-wise.

As the funds have been released recently, the quantification of achievements will be possible only after some time.

Export of Foodgrains

2622. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the circumstances under which foodgrains especially wheat and rice were exported indicating the details of the exports;

(b) the extent to which these exports were responsible for the creation of artificial scarcity of wheat and rice and escalation of their prices in the market; and

(c) the steps taken to curb the prices of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) As per the current Export and Import (EXIM) Policy, export of basmati and non-basmati rice is allowed freely without any quantitative or Minimum Export Price (MEP) restrictions. Export of wheat is allowed subject to quantitative ceilings fixed from time to time. Initially, the likely production of wheat during 1995-96 was projected at 66.21 Million tonnes. This was subsequently revised to 62.62 Million tonnes, representing a fall in production by about 3.15 Million tonnes compared to that of the previous year. On receipt of this information, about the revised production estimate of wheat during 1995-96, the export ceiling of non-durum wheat was brought down to 10.00 lakh tonnes from the original 25.00 lakh tonnes.

A quantity of 21.71 lakh tonnes of rice was exported during 1996-97 till January, 1997. The total quantity of durum and non-durum wheat exported during this period is 10.92 lakh tonnes, against the export ceiling of 15.00 lakh tonnes (5 lakh tonnes of durum wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat).

(b) The quantity of about 21.00 lakh tonnes of rice and about 11.00 lakh tonnes of wheat exported so far represents only 2.64% and 1.75% of the total production of rice and wheat respectively. Therefore, the extent to which exports have adversely affected the domestic foodgrains situation is negligible.

(c) Government is closely monitoring the price situation. The steps taken to control the rise in prices of foodgrains include the following :

(i) Increased allocation of rice for supply under PDS to States/UTs

(ii) FCI is taking steps to issue 5 lakh tonnes more of rice under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) over and above the PDs Allocation.

(iii) A restructured PDs for supply of foodgrains at specially subsidised prices to the people living below poverty line is proposed to be implemented.

(iv) All the State Government/UT Administrations have been advised to take stringent action